

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN JUNE 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 40,400 metric tons (t) in June, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was an increase of about 21% compared with production in May 2005 and about a 22% increase compared with that of June 2004. Secondary refinery production (74,800 t) decreased by about 14% and reported consumption (126,000 t) decreased by about 3% from values of the previous month. When compared with that of June 2004, secondary production was down by about 23% and reported consumption was up by about 10%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price decreased slightly (0.01 cent per pound) from that of the previous month to 60.76 cents per pound. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in June 2005 ranged from a low of \$927.00 per metric ton (June 30) to a high of \$1,014.50 per metric ton (June 3), and averaged

\$985.66 per metric ton, about a 0.2% decrease compared with the May price. Previously quoted June prices were both up by about 13% when compared with June 2004 averages. During June, LME lead stocks increased by 15,900 t to 45,600 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in June, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 2,350 t (approximately 2,590 short tons), with an approximate value of \$2.3 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead sales for June 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, July 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - June	May	June	January - June
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	211,000 ^r	33,400	40,400	206,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	559,000 ^r	85,000 ^r	72,800	485,000
Estimated	11,300	5,640 ^r	859 ^r	735	4,890
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	7,500	1,250	1,250	7,500
Total secondary	1,140,000	572,000	87,100 ^r	74,800	497,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	66,100	82,000 ^r	61,400 ^r	60,500	60,500
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	1	--	NA	6 ²
Refined metal	197,000	93,500	25,100	NA	116,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	739,000 ^r	130,000 ^r	126,000	752,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300 ^r	22,200 ^r	3,890 ^r	3,780	22,600
Total	1,520,000	761,000 ^r	134,000 ^r	130,000	775,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	81,600	26,100	NA	73,600 ²
Bullion	129	53	7	NA	76 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	47,400	4,480	NA	27,200 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	541	203	NA	871 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	30,100	7,760	NA	29,400 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	51.08 ^r	60.77	60.76	60.75

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January - May only; June data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2004:				
June	53.88	869.66	475.77	1.827909
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
April	60.76	985.33	519.66	1.896105
May	60.77	987.71	541.77	1.823100
June	60.76	985.66	542.25	1.817736

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks May 31, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks June 30, 2005
Battery-lead	13,200 ^r	83,700	83,900	12,900
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	13,600 ^r	13,200	13,100	13,700
Total	26,800 ^r	96,900	97,000	26,600
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN JUNE 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	53,500	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	19,000	W	W
Other ²	378	W	W
Total lead-base	72,800	148	350

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - June ^r	May ^r	June	January - June
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	30,800	4,790	5,380	29,600
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	2,090	281	281	1,680
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	5,540	2,770	175	174	3,080
Casting metals	17,900	8,960	1,510	1,490	8,970
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	16,200	2,590	2,580	16,300
Solder	7,440	3,720	563	610	3,820
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	643,000	114,000	111,000	659,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	1,770	885	790	185	1,720
Total metal products	1,420,000	709,000	125,000	121,000	724,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	29,800	4,650	4,650	28,200
Total reported	1,480,000	739,000	130,000	126,000	752,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300 ^r	22,200	3,890	3,780	22,600
Grand total	1,520,000	761,000	134,000	130,000	775,000

^cEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS,
AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks May 31, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks June 30, 2005
Soft lead	34,400 ^r	58,000	59,700	32,700
Antimonial lead	10,900 ^r	35,300	34,500	11,800
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	61,400 ^r	113,000	114,000	60,500

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	May	Year	April	May	January - May
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	13,100	292,000	9,720	26,100	73,600
Bullion	20	129	5	7	76
Materials excluding scrap	5,620	82,400	4,130	4,480	27,200
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	5	1,020	36	203	871
Total	18,700	375,000	13,900	30,800	102,000
Gross weight: Scrap	3,970	56,300	7,350	7,760	29,400

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January - May	April	May	January - May	Year	January - May	April	May	January - May
Base bullion:										
Mexico	3	1	--	--	--	3	1	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--	6
Total	3	1	--	--	6	3	1	--	--	6
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	18,800	--	18,800	13,700 ^r	5,410	18,800	--	18,800
Canada	166,000	62,600	15,100	17,900	83,700	166,000	62,600	15,100	17,900	83,700
Mexico	8,810	6,110	569	682	2,110	8,810	6,110	569	682	2,110
Peru	7,270	1,240	1,370	2,500	6,970	7,270	1,240	1,370	2,500	6,970
Other	1,310	792 ^r	47 ^r	4,040	4,170	1,450 ^r	918 ^r	47 ^r	4,040	4,170
Total	183,000	70,700 ^r	35,900 ^r	25,100	116,000	197,000	76,300	35,900 ^r	25,100	116,000
Grand total	183,000	70,800 ^r	35,900 ^r	25,100	116,000	197,000	76,300	35,900 ^r	25,100	116,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.